THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) An informal Ministerial meeting on the Doha Work Programme of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) was attended by about 30 Trade Ministers on 27 January 2007 on the margins of the World Economic Forum at Davos. The Ministers endorsed full scale resumption of negotiations. The Ministers favoured an inclusive multilateral Process, coupled with a comprehensive approach in the negotiations, to achieve a broad-based and balanced deal in keeping with the development dimension of the Doha Round.

On the margins of the World Economic Forum, the G-33 Ministers present at Davos also met on 26 January 2007 and issued a press statement conveying their readiness to engage with all WTO Members to secure their interests in the final Doha Round outcome. They emphasised the need to secure early convergence on the critical development instruments of Special Products (SPs) and Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM).

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No consensus was reached at the meeting on the question of reduction/abolition of agricultural subsidies by the EC countries and the United States.

Globalisation of Labour at WEF

2447. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India and its delegation, which participates in the World Economic Forum, have raised the issue of globalisation of labour;

(b) what is the number of work permits given to Indians for employment abroad; and

(c) what is the quantity of import made by Government, as a result of globalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The matter pertaining to Mode-4

as under GATS, which is part of globalisation of labour, was raised by the India delegation at the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum.

(b) No work permits are given to Indian workers for employment abroad. However, the Indian emigrant worker with the Emigration Check Required (ECR) endorsed passports going for employment in the ECR countries are granted emigration clearance by the offices of the Protector of Emigrants, under the Emigration Act 1983. During 2006, emigration clearance was granted to about 6.77 lakh Indian workers of the above-mentioned category going for employment abroad.

(c) Information on quantity of import made by Government as a result of globalisation is not maintained. However, the value of imports made by India from 1990-91 to 2006-07 (April-October) is Rs. 3900485 crore.

Adverse effect of import of cotton and edible oil

2448. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to curb indiscriminate import of cotton and edible oil, which had led to a crisis in domestic industries of cotton and edible oil;

(b) the modalities and mode of monitoring such curbs, which are being implemented at present and the stringent measures proposed to be introduced;

(c) if not, the reason therefor;

(d) whether Government would increase import duty on cotton and edible oil, and impose restrictive import quantitative measures, to encourage domestic sales and domestic industries, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Imports are regulated through adjustments in Customs Tariff within the bound rates. The rates of Customs duty on agricultural produce are generally higher than the peak rate of customs duty. The Central Board